

I feel strongly about the Coast Guards changes in the regulation. I also approve of the extension of the RNA (Regulated Navigation Area, since the strong currents in the Mississippi river do lead to miss happenings. A greater area will not only ensure more effective operations of the Coast guard in situations of emergencies and danger, but it will give the vessels (1600 tons or more) to plan their routes with may alternatives. This will ensure safety of the vessel, passengers, as well as the crew.

The Coast Guard's orders will require Vessel to maintain a manned pilothouse watch in prefer to monitor river activities, which will again facilitate immediate emergencies procedures when required.

I would also like to add my strong concern for vessels carrying Hazardous Gases/materials. I encourage the Coast Guard to implement laws/rules that ensure proper packaging of these materials. Packaging of such materials should be met in standard where it is done in such a way that incase of a miss happenings, things can be controlled, and these materials do not spread in the waters, especially in international waters. Competent Authority Package design certificates should be required for such shipments.

Vessels carrying such materials, and even material like oil in bulk should be required to obtain certificates of safety, travel route plans, and also their routes must be carefully monitored in International waters by a sole agency of guards.